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Docket No.: J2167.0221

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Thomas Mackay et al.

Application No.: 09/631,810 Confirmation No.: 9141

Filed: August 3, 2000 Art Unit: 3624

For: WORKFLOW MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND METHOD Examiner: G. R. Akers

APPELLANT'S BRIEF

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
220 20th Street S.
Customer Window, Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

This brief is in furtherance of the Notice of Appeal, filed in this case on July 19, 2004.

You are hereby authorized to charge our credit card for the fee of $340.00 required under Section 1.17(f). PTO Form 2038 is attached.

In the event a fee is required or if any additional fee during the prosecution of this application is not paid, the Patent Office is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2215.

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CONTINGENT EXTENSION REQUEST

If this communication is filed after the shortened statutory time period had elapsed and no separate Petition is enclosed, the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks is petitioned, under 37 CFR 1.136(a), to extend the time for filing a response to the outstanding Office Action by the number of months which will avoid abandonment under 37 CFR 1.135. The fee under 37 CFR 1.17 should be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-2215.

This brief is transmitted in triplicate.

This brief contains items under the following headings as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.192 and M.P.E.P. § 1206:

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest for this appeal is:

JPMorgan Chase Bank

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no other appeals or interferences which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this appeal.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

A. Total Number of Claims in Application

There are 131 claims pending in application.

B. Current Status of Claims

1. Claims canceled: None
2. Claims withdrawn from consideration but not canceled: 113-115, 118-135
3. Claims pending: 1-112, 116-117, 136-152
4. Claims allowed: None
5. Claims rejected: 1-112, 116-117, 136-152

C. Claims On Appeal

The claims on appeal are claims 1-112, 116-117, 136-152

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

Applicant filed a Response After Final Rejection on July 19, 2004. The Examiner responded to the Response After Final Rejection in an Advisory Action mailed August 3, 2004. In the Advisory Action, the Examiner indicated that

Applicants' proposed amendments to the claims would not be entered. However, there were no amendments to the claims. Further, the Examiner stated that the request for consideration does not place the application in condition for allowance. The only amendments made to the claims were those made in a preliminary amendment filed April 18, 2001.

Accordingly, the claims enclosed herein as Appendix A incorporate the amendments indicated in the paper filed by Applicant on April 18, 2001.

V. SUMMARY OF INVENTION

The present invention relates to a computerized workflow management method and system to provide operational support for complex multi-step processes, having particular utility in supporting operations involving securitizations for which periodic valuation and distribution computations, disbursements and reporting must be set up and executed. See, Abstract.

The method involves creating an underlying database structure for recording the processing steps and other information required for each deal, entering the necessary setup information by selection from lists of pre-stored information about processing functions, the associated workflow events (referred to herein as "queues") and status milestones for the queues, mapping the data structures of the subsystem databases and the workflow management database to provide transparent interfacing and convenient manual entry of data were necessary, displaying for the user the queue and milestones status of all the deals for which he or she is responsible, permitting menu driven initiation of the tasks required in each

queue each the deals and automatically updating the database records for the universe of deals being managed by the system. See, page 6.

Generally, a user performs a task by selecting the task name from an Actions List on an Active Deals Screen. For some actions, e.g., approval, nothing further is required; the workflow management software updates the status records for the deal in Workflow Database 244, moves the deal to the next queue and/or milestone, and updates the listing for the deal on the user's Active Deals Screen. For tasks requiring data input, selecting the task brings up a data entry screen. For tasks involving review and/or editing of data, the reviewer can bring up the appropriate screen to ensure that all data are correct and process the approval or the editor can bring up the appropriate screen in order to edit the data. For yet other actions, e.g., Deny, Un-Approve (withdraw an approval) or Restate (i.e. to correct errors after a payment has been made), supporting comments are required. In those instances, after the task is selected, a comment entry screen appears. See, page 17.

The invention provides an effective solution to workflow management for complex financial transactions involving many deals and data which changes on a frequent basis. It also permits modification of the data structures as needed to accommodate evolutionary changes in the financial structures of the deals being handled. In the preferred embodiment, the invention is implemented using a relational database management system on a computer network organized on a client-server model. See, page 64.

VI. ISSUES

Are the Group I claims patentable over State Street (1997) in view of Poindexter (U.S. Patent No. 6,338,074) and further in view of Notani (U.S. Patent No. 6,442,528)?

VII. GROUPING OF CLAIMS

For purposes of this appeal brief only, and without conceding the teachings of any prior art reference, the claims have been grouped as indicated below:

Group	Claim(s)
I.	1-112, 116-117, 136-152
II.	113-115, 118-135 (are withdrawn from consideration).

In Section VIII below, Applicant has included arguments supporting the patentability of the group I claims as required by M.P.E.P. § 1206.

The Group I claims stand or fall together.

VIII. ARGUMENTS

A. Are the Group I claims patentable over State Street[1] in view of Poindexter (U.S. Patent No. 6,338,074) and further in view of Notani (U.S. Patent No. 6,442,528)?

In the Final Office Action dated February 18, 2004, the Examiner issued a final rejection for each of the pending claims. The pending claims were rejected

[1] A copy of State Street is attached hereto as Appendix B.

under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious in light of State Street in view of Poindexter and further in view of Notani.

B. OBVIOUSNESS

Paragraph 5 of the Final Office Action rejects the group I claims 2 and 4 as being obvious over State Street in view of Poindexter and further in view of Notani. It is axiomatic that in order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the Office Action must show that the combination of prior art references discloses each and every element of the group I claims. In the present case, the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify a reference or combine references to arrive at the claimed subject matter. The prior art references must also teach or suggest all the limitations of the claim in question. See, M.P.E.P. § 706.02(j) (emphasis added). A reference can only be used for what it clearly discloses or suggests. See, In re Hummer, 113 U.S.P.Q. 66 (C.C.P.A. 1957); In re Stencel, 4 U.S.P.Q.2d 1071, 1073 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Here, the prior art references, whether taken individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the invention claimed by the Applicant.

To be a prior art reference, the reference must be a printed publication and accessible to the public before the filing date of the application. In re Hall, 228 U.S.P.Q. 453 (Fed. Cir. 1986); M.P.E.P. § 2128. M.P.E.P. § 2128.01. A

publication that does not include a publication date (or a retrieval date) cannot be relied upon as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) or (b) although it may be used to show the state of the art at or around the time the invention was made. See, M.P.E.P. §§ 2124, 2128 (emphasis added). In the present case there has been no showing that the undated State Street reference was accessible to the public prior to the filing date of the present application or that it shows the state of the art at or around the time the invention was made.

Applicants submit that the Examiner has not properly established the State Street document as prior art. The Examiner has taken the position that the State Street web pages can be dated using a completely unrelated FDIC Letter, dated December 13, 1999. Applicant's strongly disagree with this position. The cited State Street documents themselves have no publication date and do not refer to the FDIC letter. Likewise, the FDIC letter does not reference the State Street reference. The FDIC Letter cannot be relied upon to date the web pages or the disclosure therein because it does not refer to the State Street system. See, In re Epstein, 31 U.S.P.Q.2d 1817 (Fed. Cir. 1994) (Abstracts, which are not prior art under section 102(b), that refer to a "release" or "first installation" date for its respective software product of more than one year before appellant filed his patent application can be used to show (1) that the software products described in the abstracts were "in public use or on sale" within the meaning of section 102(b) and thus properly considered prior art, and (2) the level of skill in the art at the time the invention was made).

The Examiner incorrectly asserts that the publication date of the State Street material is the date that the FDIC released a letter for guidance on Asset Securitization. The FDIC Letter merely establishes that, at least by December 13, 1999, the FDIC had provided guidance regarding asset securitization. The Examiner has used this date in combination with the self-serving statement from the State Street Web site that "[s]ince inception of the U.S. securitization market, we have shown a commitment to the market by successfully serving as administrator, credit enhancer, placement agent, investor and trustee" to date the Web page as of December 13, 1999. State Street's quote from the website merely states that they have been involved in the securitization market since its inception. It states nothing about which of its processes were practiced or when they were practiced.

Applicants admit that the practice of asset securitization has existed in the United States since the early 1970s. Using the logic in the Office Action, the State Street web pages should therefore be considered prior art as of the 1970s. Clearly, this is absurd. The fact that State Street claims they have been involved in asset securitization since the 1970s does not establish that State Street's web pages were published in the 1970s. Furthermore, merely being involved in asset securitization activities does not in any way establish State Street had a computerized method for work flow management for a trustee handling a plurality of securitization transactions or that such a system was discussed on the State Street Web site.

The Office Action has provided no reasonable evidence whatsoever that the State Street reference was actually available as of the filing of the present Application as specifically required by the M.P.E.P. Further, there has been no

showing that the State Street reference discloses the state of the art at the time of the invention. As such, Applicants assert that the State Street reference is not prior art and therefore may not be used as a reference.

As the State Street is not a prior art reference as against the present application, withdrawal of the rejections based on State Street is respectfully requested.

The remaining references, Poindexter and Notani, fail to disclose all of the limitations in Applicants' pending claims. Poindexter and Notani were not cited to disclose a computerized method for workflow management for a trustee handling a plurality of securitization transactions but for other deficiencies noted by the Examiner in State Street reference. Whether or not Poindexter and Notani disclose the limitations for which they are cited is irrelevant as the Examiner has failed to cite a valid reference disclosing a computerized method for workflow management for a trustee handling a plurality of securitization transactions. As such, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the pending rejection.

CLAIMS INVOLVED IN THE APPEAL

A copy of the claims involved in the present appeal is attached hereto as Appendix A. As indicated above, the claims in Appendix A include the amendments filed by Applicant on April 18, 2001.

Dated: November 4, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By_____
Ian R. Blum
Registration No.: 42,336
DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN & OSHINSKY LLP
1177 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036-2714
(212) 835-1400
Attorney for Applicant

IRB/mgs

APPENDIX A

Claims Involved in the Appeal of Application Serial No. 09/631,810

1. A computerized method of workflow management for a trustee handling a plurality of securitization transactions comprising the steps of:

recording deal setup information in an electronic database including information related to the structure of each of the securitizations;

recording workflow status information for each of the securitizations in the electronic database;

periodically receiving asset level data transmitted by at least one asset manager;

aggregating the asset level data;

transmitting the aggregated asset level data electronically to a workflow management software module;

providing an active deals display generated by the workflow management software module, based at least in part on the recorded deal setup information and the recorded workflow status information, which display provides access to workflow status information for particular securitizations, provides prompts for a user as to work which is to be done with respect thereto, and permits the user to initiate actions required for performance of the trustee's duties; and

updating the recorded workflow status information for the securitizations based on work performed with respect thereto.

2. The method described in claim 1, wherein the steps are performed under control of the workflow management software module.

3. The method described in claim 1 further including the step of electronically transmitting data concerning payments due investors in the securitization from the workflow management software module to a software module which processes payments to the investors based on the transmitted data.

4. The method described in claim 3, further including the step of electronically disseminating reports and other data compilations upon completion of the payment processing.

5. The method described in claim 1 further including the step of calculating waterfall payments due investors in the securitizations on a periodic basis in accordance with the deal structure and the aggregated asset level data;

6. The method described in claim 5, further including the step of performing calculations of taxes owed by the investors on the waterfall payments based on the waterfall calculations.

7. The method described in claim 1, in which the step of aggregating the asset level data is performed by a first software module separate from the workflow management software module.

8. The method described in claim 7, further including the step of providing an interface which maps the data produced by the first software module for compatibility with the workflow management software module.

9. The method described in claim 1, in which the workflow status information is displayed in terms of basic functions associated with management of

the securitization, workflow events associated with the basic functions and milestones associated with the workflow events.

10. The method described in claim 9, in which the basic functions include waterfall processing and tax processing.

11. The method described in claim 10, in which the workflow events associated with the waterfall processing function include a Data Aggregation queue, a Data Preparation queue, a Ready for Waterfall Processing queue, a Waterfall Approval queue and a Payment queue.

12. The method described in claim 11, in which the milestones associated with the Data Aggregation queue include Not Ready, Data Received and Denied.

13. The method described in claim 12, further including the step of changing the workflow status of a securitization in waterfall processing to the Data Aggregation queue and Not Ready status when a previous payment cycle has been completed.

14. The method described in claim 13, further including the step of changing the workflow status of a securitization in the Data Aggregation queue and the Not Ready milestone to Data Received status when asset level data for a new waterfall processing cycle is received.

15. The method described in claim 14, further including the step of changing the workflow status of a securitization from Not Ready to Data Received status in response to a user command.

16. The method described in claim 12, further including the step of changing the workflow status of a securitization in the Data Received milestone to the Data Preparation Queue and the Tape Run milestone if the aggregated asset level data is ready for further processing, or is transferred to Data Denied status in the Data Aggregation queue if the aggregated asset level data is incomplete, inaccurate or otherwise not ready for further processing.

17. The method described in claim 16, further including the steps of:

permitting a user to review the aggregated data and to approve or reject the data, and

changing the workflow status of the securitization to the Data Preparation queue and the Tape Run milestone if the user approves the data, or to the Data Denied status in the Data Aggregation queue if the user rejects the data.

18. The method described in claim 17, further including the step of requiring entry of supporting comments by the user into a data entry screen before changing the status to Data Denied if the user has rejected the data.

19. The method described in claim 16, further including returning the workflow status of a securitization in the Data Denied milestone to Data Received status when new or corrected aggregated data is received.

20. The method described in claim 11, in which the milestones associated with the Data Preparation queue include Not Ready, Tape Run, Loan Level Processed and Denied.

21. The method described in claim 20, wherein, for a securitization in the Data Preparation queue and the Not Ready milestone, the actions which the user is permitted to initiate include:

an Approve action; and

a Data Entry action.

22. The method described in claim 21, further including the step of:

changing the workflow status to the Ready for Waterfall Processing queue and the Ready milestone in response to an Approve action.

23. The method described in claim 21, further including the step of:

making a data entry screen available to the user when a Data Entry action is initiated.

24. The method described in claim 20, further including the step of changing the workflow status of a securitization in the Data Preparation queue and the Tape Run milestone to the Asset Level Processed status in the Data Preparation queue by the workflow management software module when the data aggregation operation has been completed, or to the Data Aggregation queue and Data Denied status in response to a user command.

25. The method described in claim 24, further including the steps, for a securitization in the Data Preparation queue and the Asset Level Processed milestone, of:

permitting the user to review the aggregated asset level data, and to accept or reject the data according to predefined criteria; and

changing the workflow status of the securitization to the Ready For Waterfall Processing queue and the Ready status if the user approves the data, or to the Data Denied status in the Data Prep queue if the data is rejected.

26. The method described in claim 20, wherein, for a securitization in the Data Preparation queue and the Denied milestone, the actions which the user is permitted to initiate include:

a Deny to Asset Level Aggregation action;

an Enter Data action; and

an Aggregate action.

27. The method described in claim 26, further including the step of changing the workflow status to the Asset Level Aggregation queue and the Denied status when the Deny to Asset Level Aggregation action is taken.

28. The method described in claim 26, further including the step of making a data entry screen available to the user when the Enter Data action is initiated.

29. The method described in claim 26, further including the steps of:

performing an asset level data aggregation when the Aggregate action is initiated; and

changing the workflow status to Loan Level Processed in the Data Preparation queue when the asset level data aggregation has been completed.

30. The method described in claim 11, in which the milestones associated with the Ready for Waterfall Processing queue include Ready and Denied.

31. The method described in claim 30, wherein, for a securitization in the Ready for Waterfall Processing queue and Ready status, the actions which a user is permitted to initiate include:

a Deny action;

a Run Waterfall action;

an Enter Data action;

an Add Special Headers/Footers action; and

an Add Asset Level Information action.

32. The method described in claim 31, further including the step of returning the workflow status of the securitization to the Data Ready Queue and Data Denied milestone when a Deny action is selected.

33. The method described in claim 31, when the Run Waterfall action is selected, further including the steps of:

providing the asset level data to a third software module for waterfall processing; and

when the waterfall processing has been completed, changing the workflow status to the Waterfall Approval queue and Ready milestone.

34. The method described in claim 31, when the Enter Data, the Add Special Headers/Footers or the Add Asset Level Information actions are selected, further including the steps of:

making data entry screens accessible to the user; and

after data entry has been completed, returning the user to the list of permitted actions.

35. The method described in claim 30, wherein, for a securitization in the Ready for Waterfall Processing queue and Denied status, the actions which a user is permitted to initiate include:

a Deny action; and

a Run Waterfall action.

36. The method described in claim 35, further including the step of:

changing the workflow status to the Data Ready queue and Data Denied status when a Deny action is initiated.

37. The method described in claim 35, when a Run Waterfall action is initiated, further including the steps of:

providing the asset level data to a third software module for waterfall processing; and

thereafter, when the waterfall processing is completed, changing the workflow status to the Waterfall Approval queue and Ready status.

38. The method described in claim 11, in which at least a Ready milestone is associated with the Waterfall Approval queue.

39. The method described in claim 38, wherein, for a securitization in the Waterfall Approval queue, further including the steps of:

performing at least one predefined test under control of the user to verify the accuracy of the waterfall calculations;

permitting the user to approve the data if the test is passed; and

in response to approval of the data by the user, changing the workflow status to the Payment queue and Final Approval status.

40. The method described in claim 39, further including the steps of:

permitting the user to select the Deny action if the verification test is not passed; and

in response to selection of the Deny action, changing the workflow status to a predetermined status level in an earlier queue.

41. The method described in claim 38, wherein, for a securitization in the Waterfall Approval queue, further including the steps of:

performing a series of predefined tests to verify the accuracy of the waterfall calculations; and

if the tests are passed, changing the workflow status to the Payment queue and Final Approval status; or

if the tests are not passed, changing the workflow status to a predetermined queue and milestone as a function of which of the tests in the series was not passed.

42. The method described in claim 11, in which the milestones associated with the Payment queue include Final Approval, Received by Payment System, and Payment Made.

43. The method described in claim 42, for a securitization in the Payment queue and Final Approval status, further including the steps of:

changing the workflow status to the Received by Payment Systems milestone; and

providing the waterfall data to a payment processing software module for payment processing.

44. The method described in claim 42, for a securitization in the Payment queue and the Received by Payment Systems milestone, further including the step of:

when the payment processing is complete, changing the workflow status to the Payment Made milestone.

45. The method described in claim 42, for a securitization in the Payment queue and the Payment Made milestone, further including the steps of:

selecting the next waterfall distribution date; and

the workflow status to the Data Aggregation queue and the Not Ready milestone.

46. The method described in claim 10, in which the workflow events associated with the tax processing function include a Ready for Tax Processing queue, a Tax Approvals queue and a Tax Reports queue.

47. The method described in claim 46, wherein, for a securitization in tax processing, in the Ready for Tax Processing queue, the actions which the user is permitted to initiate irrespective of the milestone, include:

an Enter Data action; and

a Run Tax Processing action.

48. The method described in claim 47, further including the step of making a tax data entry screen accessible to the user if the Enter Data action is selected.

49. The method described in claim 47, further including the steps of:

making the waterfall data available to a tax processing software module for computation of taxes due on the waterfall payments; and

after the tax computations have been completed, changing the workflow status to the Tax Approval queue and Ready status.

50. The method described in claim 49, further including the step of performing tax computations for each of the waterfall payment periods.

51. The method described in claim 46, wherein, for a securitization in the Tax Approval queue, and the Ready milestone, the actions which the user is permitted to initiate include:

an Approval-Monthly action; and

an Approval-Annual action.

52. The method described in claim 51, further including the step of:

applying at least one verification test to the waterfall payment tax computations if the Approval-Monthly action is selected.

53. The method described in claim 51, if the Approval-Quarterly action is selected, further including the steps of: combining the monthly waterfall payment tax data for the respective securitizations;

applying at least one verification test to the combined data; and

upon successful verification of the tax computations, changing the workflow status of the securitization to the Mail Reports queue and Ready status.

54. The method described in claim 51, if the Approval-Annual action is selected, further including the steps of:

combining the quarterly tax data for the respective securitizations;

applying at least one verification test to the combined data; and

upon successful verification of the tax computations, changing the workflow status of the securitization to the Mail Reports queue and Ready status.

55. The method described in claim 51, wherein, for a securitization in the Tax Approval queue, and the Ready milestone, the actions which the user is permitted to initiate further include:

a Deny action; and

a Tax Reports action.

56. The method described in claim 55, further including the step of changing the workflow status of the securitization to a predetermined queue and milestone based on the structure of the specific securitization if the Deny action is selected.

57. The method described in claim 55, if the Tax Reports action is selected, further including the steps of:

making a list of tax reports accessible to the user;

permitting the user to select of one or more reports; and

activating a tax processing software module to generate the selected reports.

58. The method described in claim 55, wherein, for a securitization in the Tax Reports queue, the actions which the user is permitted to initiate include:

a Mail action; and

a Tax Reports.

59. The method described in claim 58, if the Mail action is selected; further including the steps of:

activating the tax processing software module to print quarterly and annual tax reports previously generated;

identifying the next tax processing cycle; and

changing the workflow status to the Ready for Tax Processing queue and Ready status for the identified period.

60. The method described in claim 58, if the Tax Reports action is selected; further including the steps of:

permitting tax reports to be selected by the user for generation; and

generating the selected reports.

61. The method described in claim 46, in which the milestones associated with the Ready for Tax Processing queue include Ready and Denied.

62. The method described in claim 46, in which the milestones associated with the Tax Approvals queue include Ready and Denied.

63. The method described in claim 46, in which at least a Ready milestone is associated with the Tax Reports queue.

64. The method described in claim 1, further including the steps of: generating a selection screen having a plurality of active elements thereon; and

permitting a user may initiate functions by selection of the active elements.

65. The method described in claim 64, wherein the functions which the user is permitted to initiate include one or more of:

invoking an active deals display;

viewing and changing index data used for waterfall payment calculations;

viewing and changing details of the deal structures for the securitizations;

viewing and changing information concerning those to whom responsibility may be assigned for particular securitizations;

viewing and changing information concerning particular assignments;

viewing and changing information concerning other individuals and entities interested in the securitizations or having information relevant thereto;

viewing and changing information related to database structure;

setting up and performing data verifications;

viewing historical data concerning the securitizations; and

establishing and updating security levels for access to information by users.

66. The method described in claim 1, wherein the step of recording set up information includes:

allowing a user to select pertinent information concerning a particular securitization for entry in fields on a plurality of data entry screens from lists stored in at least one database record;

automatically filling in data in additional fields based on a selection made for at least one other field; and

allowing the user to create records for new information not contained in an existing database record by entering data in the fields of at least one data entry screen for that record.

67. The method described in claim 66, wherein the step of recording set up information further includes permitting the user to edit existing database records by entering new information in the fields of at least one data entry screen for that record.

68. The method described in claim 66, further including the step of allowing the user to make selections for at least some of the fields in a data entry screen from drop-down lists created from stored database records.

69. The method described in claim 68, further including the step of determining the content of at least one of the drop-down lists as a function of the data selection made for another field.

70. The method described in claim 68, further including the step of scrolling at least some of the drop-down lists on the basis of partial entries in text boxes for the lists.

71. The method described in claim 1, wherein the step of recording set up information includes:

allowing a user to access and enter data into the fields of a series of data input screens, each screen providing for entry of a particular type of data related to the particular securitization; and storing the data entered by the user in the database in response to a save command from the user.

72. The method described in claim 71, further including the step of permitting the user to access specific data entry screens by selecting tabs appearing on all of the screens in the series.

73. The method described in claim 71, further including the step of displaying tables in at least some of the data input screens, the tables having a plurality of rows, each row representing a data base record and a plurality of columns, each column row representing the fields of the displayed records.

74. The method described in claim 73, further including the step of automatically filling at least some of the fields of a particular database record based on selection by the user of data for another field for that record from a list.

75. The method described in claim 71, further including the step of permitting the user access to a Setup data screen, an Output data screen, a Contacts data screen, a Steps data screen, a Quality Control data screen, an Inputs data screen and a Header/Footer data screen.

76. The method described in claim 75, further including the step of permitting the user to enter data in fields of the Setup data screens identifying a particular securitization, and at least the basic functions to be performed in managing the particular securitization.

77. The method described in claim 76, further including the step of permitting the user to enter data in fields, the Setup data entry screens identifying the frequency with which the basic functions are to be performed from a list of possible frequencies.

78. The method described in claim 75, further including the step of permitting the user to enter data in fields of the Output data entry screens which specify the distribution media, the subject matter, the format, the release date, recipient information and the title of each report to be created for a particular securitization.

79. The method described in claim 75, further including the step of permitting the user to enter data in fields of the Contacts data entry screens from drop-down lists which exclude employees of the trustee.

80. The method described in claim 75, wherein the workflow status of the securitizations is recorded in terms of basic functions to be performed, processing queues for each basic function and progress milestones for each queue, and further including the steps of:

permitting a user to identify a particular securitization and a basic function on the Steps data entry screen;

displaying a table in the Steps data input screens, the table having a plurality of rows, each representing a data base record for a specific queue and a plurality of columns, each representing the fields of the displayed records.

81. The method described in claim 80, wherein the fields for each queue record include at least a queue identification field, a field identifying the individual responsible for performance of actions associated with the queue and a field specifying the day of the month on which the action is to be taken.

82. The method described in claim 81, further including the step of permitting selection of the entry for the queue identification field from a drop-down

list populated from a database record in accordance with a basic function selected by the user.

83. The method described in claim 82, further including the step of populating the queue identification drop-down list in a predetermined order representing the expected processing order for the selected basic function.

84. The method described in claim 82, wherein the step of permitting queue selection from the queue identification drop-down list includes permitting concurrent selection of more than one item from the list.

85. The method described in claim 81, further including the step of permitting selection of a Deny field for each queue record which specifies a workflow path change in case data is disapproved at a particular queue.

86. The method described in claim 85, wherein the workflow path change is specified by flagging the Deny field, and wherein a data disapproval in a queue for which the Deny field has been flagged returns the status of the securitization to the nearest queue above in the processing order for which the Deny field has also been flagged, except that if the disapproval takes place in a queue for which the Deny field has been flagged, the status is returned to the immediately previous queue, irrespective of flagging of the Deny field.

87. The method described in claim 75, further including the steps of: displaying a drop-down list of predefined data verification tests in the Quality Control data entry screens;

displaying tables in the Quality Control data entry screens, the table having a plurality of rows, each representing a data base record concerning use of a data verification test; and

permitting a user to select at least one verification test from the drop-down list, and to specify a queue and milestone at which the selected verification test is to be performed.

88. The method described in claim 87, wherein the step of permitting verification test selection from the verification identification drop-down list includes permitting concurrent selection of more than one item from the list.

89. The method described in claim 75, further including the steps of:

permitting a user to identify a particular securitization and a basic function on the Steps data entry screen;

displaying a table in the Steps data input screens, the table having a plurality of rows, each representing a data base record for a specific queue and a plurality of columns, each representing the fields of the displayed records.

90. The method described in claim 75, wherein the aggregated asset level data is transmitted in the form of at least one database record having a first structure, and further including the step of:

permitting a user to remap fields of the first database structure in the Inputs data entry screen to correspond to fields of a second database structure used in performing the waterfall payment calculations.

91. The method described in claim 90, further including the steps of:

displaying two tables in side-by-side relation in the Inputs data entry screen, the tables having a plurality of aligned rows, with the rows of the first table permitting selection of fields of the first data base structure, and the rows of the second table permitting selection of fields in the second database structure; and

permitting the user to populate respective aligned rows of the two tables with data to identify corresponding fields in the two database structures for the particular securitization.

92. The method described in claim 91, wherein the data for the fields are selected from drop-down lists of the fields in the respective database structures.

93. The method described in claim 92, further including the steps of:

permitting the user to select a previously created mapping as a template for a new mapping; and

populating the rows of the two tables to reflect the previously created mapping.

94. The method described in claim 90, further including the step of:

permitting the user to select a previously created mapping as a template for a new mapping.

95. The method described in claim 75, further including the steps of:

permitting the user to identify a particular securitization in the Header/Footer data entry screen; and

permitting the user to specify in the Header/Footer data entry screen, the text and page location of headers and footers to be used in periodic reports for the specified securitization.

96. he method described in claim 74, further including the step of permitting a user to enter data in an index rate data entry screen which identifies a particular securitization, and specifies an index and the source thereof for use in the waterfall calculations for the particular securitization.

97. The method described in claim 96, further including the step of permitting a user to enter dates in the index rate data entry screen for which values of the specified index are to be determined in connection with the particular securitization.

98. The method described in claim 74, further including the step of permitting a user to enter data in a global staff/contact data entry screen concerning changes which affect a plurality of securitizations.

99. The method described in claim 98, further including the steps of:

permitting the user to formulate a database query on the global staff/contact data entry screen; and

providing a report thereon based on variables included in the query.

100. The method described in claim 99, further including the steps of:

permitting the user to formulate the query in terms of the value of at least one variable including queue type, previous staff person or contact, and new staff person or contact; and

providing a report which lists all securitizations and queues corresponding to the variable values included in the query.

101. The method described in claim 74, further including the step of:

permitting a user to identify on a privilege level data entry screen, roles of individuals having responsibility for performing the trustee's duties, and to specify levels of data access for data viewing and modification for the established queues and milestones.

102. The method described in claim 1, further including the steps of:

permitting the user to formulate a database query on the active deals display screen; and

providing a report thereon based on variables included in the query.

103. The method described in claim 102, further including the steps of:

permitting the user to formulate the query in terms of the value of at least one variable including user name, queue type, securitization name, basic function, and need for current activity;

providing a report which lists at least the securitizations, basic functions and workflow status for listed securitizations corresponding to the variable values included in the query.

104. The method described in claim 1, in which the active deals screen is provided with a table thereon, the table including rows each of which contains workflow status information concerning a particular securitization, and further including the steps of:

permitting a user to select a specific securitization; and thereafter presenting the user a pop-up selection list from which specific actions applicable to the workflow status of the selected securitization may be initiated.

105. The method described in claim 104, wherein at least some actions available in some of the pop-up selection lists require supporting documentation, and further including the steps of:

presenting the user with a data entry screen for providing the required documentation; and

carrying out the selected action after the supporting documentation has been provided.

106. The method described in claim 1, further including the step of permitting a user to manually enter information required for waterfall payment and tax processing which is not provided as part of the aggregated asset level data.

107. The method described in claim 1, further including the steps of:

permitting a user to set up data verification tests as part of the deal setup information, and to specify queues and milestones at which the tests are to be applied; and

prompting the user on the active deals screen when predefined verification tests are to be performed.

108. The method described in claim 107, further including the step of: permitting the user to customize pre-existing verification tests for reuse.

109. The method described in claim 108, wherein the step of setting up a verification includes the steps of:

selecting the variable to be used;

defining specific parameters needed for a particular securitization;

programming the necessary calculations;

assigning importance to an abnormal result; and

assigning the verification to a basic function and queue.

110. The method described in claim 109, further including the steps of:

providing at least one data entry screen for use in formulating verifications; and

providing drop-down selection lists for selecting pre-existing verifications for modification, for specifying the basic function and queue at which the verification is to be performed, for selecting variables, parameters and values thereof, and for specifying the workflow consequences of an abnormal result.

111. The method described in claim 110, further including the step of:

providing a text box for use in creating a formula to be performed as the verification.

112. The method described in claim 110, further including the step of:

permitting the creation of the formula using words and mathematical operators.

113. A computerized method of workflow management for concurrently handling a plurality of complex multiple step projects, the method comprising the following steps, all under control of workflow management software:

creating in a database, a project setup record which uniquely characterizes each project;

recording workflow status information for the projects in a database;

providing access for a user to a computer generated workflow status display generated at least in part from the project setup information records and the

workflow status information, which display permits access to workflow status for selected projects, provides prompts for the user as to work which is to be done with respect thereto, and permits the user to initiate actions; and

automatically updating the workflow status record in the database whenever there is a change in the status of a project resulting from action initiated by the user.

114. The method described in claim 113 further including the steps of:

automatically performing required tasks according to the information stored in the project setup record for the project; and

automatically updating the workflow status record in the database whenever there is a change in the status of a project resulting from automatic performance of required tasks.

115. The method described in claim 113, wherein the step of recording workflow status information includes the step of entering information in database fields which identify basic functions involved in executing the project, workflow queues associated with the basic functions and milestones associated with the workflow queues.

116. The method described in claim 95, wherein the information entered in the fields is derived, at least in part, from pre-stored lists.

117. The method described in claim 94 further including the step of creating the project setup records at least in part from lists of pre-stored information.

118. The method described in claim 113, further including the steps of:

receiving information required for execution of the projects electronically from a source external to the workflow management software;

electronically transmitting information for performance of data processing tasks to at least one module external to the workflow management software; and

electronically receiving data from the external module representing the result of the data processing tasks performed.

119. The method described in claim 118, wherein the information from the external source is in the form of database records, and further including the step of providing an interface which remaps the database structure of the information for compatibility with the workflow management software.

120. The method described in claim 113, further including the step of electronically disseminating reports and other data compilations concerning the execution of the project.

121. The method described in claim 113, in which the status information is displayed in terms of basic functions associated with management of the project, workflow queues associated with the basic functions and milestones associated with the workflow queues.

122. The method described in claim 113, further including the steps of:

prompting the user to review data at predetermined stages of the projects;

permitting the user to take action based on the review; and

changing the workflow status of the projects in accordance with the actions taken.

123. The method described in claim 122, further including the step of requiring entry of supporting information by the user on a data entry screen before changing the workflow status of a project, for at least some actions taken by the user; and

storing the supporting information in a database record.

124. The method described in claim 113, wherein the workflow status display presents a list of projects, and wherein the method further includes the step of providing an actions list containing the actions available to the user as a pop-up selection screen on the active deals display which appears when a listed project is selected.

125. The method described in claim 113, further including the step of generating a selection screen having a plurality of active elements thereon from which a user may initiate tasks by selection of the active elements.

126. The method described in claim 113, wherein the step of creating the project setup record includes:

allowing a user to select pertinent information concerning a particular project from lists stored in at least one database record for entry in fields on a plurality of data entry screens;

automatically filling in data in additional fields based on a selection made for another field; and

allowing the user to create records for new information not contained in an existing database record by entering data in the fields of at least one data entry screen.

127. The method described in claim 126, wherein the step of creating the project setup record further includes permitting the user to edit existing database records by entering new information in the fields of at least one data entry screen.

128. The method described in claim 127, further including the step of allowing the user to make selections for at least some of the fields in a data entry screen from drop-down lists created from stored database records.

129. The method described in claim 128, further including the step of determining the content of at least one of the lists as a function of a data selection made for another field.

130. The method described in claim 129, further including the step of scrolling at least some of the lists on the basis of partial entries in text boxes for the lists.

131. The method described in claim 113, wherein the step of creating the project set up record includes the steps of:

allowing a user to access and enter data into the fields of a series of data input screens, each screen providing for entry of a particular type of data related to the project; and

storing the data entered by the user in the database in response to a save command.

132. The method described in claim 131, further including the step of permitting the user to access specific data entry screens by selecting tabs appearing on all of the screens in the series.

133. The method described in claim 113, wherein the step of creating the project setup record further includes the step of permitting the user to specify workflow path changes in accordance with predetermined contingencies.

134. The method described in claim 115, further including the steps of:

permitting the user to access a list of predefined data verification tests; and

permitting a user to select at least one verification test from the list; and

permitting the user to specify a queue and milestone at which the selected verification test is to be performed.

135. The method described in claim 113, wherein the step of permitting verification test selection includes permitting concurrent selection of more than one item from the list.

136. The method described in claim 94, wherein the step of providing access to the workflow status display further includes the steps of:

permitting the user to formulate a database query on the display screen from fields representing variables for the query; and

providing a report thereon based on variables included in the query.

137. The method described in claim 95, further including the step of:

permitting a user to specify roles of individuals having responsibility for executing the project, and to specify levels of data access for data viewing and modification for the recorded queues and milestones.

138. The method described in claim 95, wherein the step of creating the project set up record includes:

permitting a user to set up data verification tests as part of the deal setup information, and to specify queues and milestones at which the tests are to be applied.

139. The method described in claim 138, further including the step of: permitting the user to customize pre-existing verification tests for reuse.

140. The method described in claim 139, wherein the step of setting up a verification includes the steps of:

selecting variable to be used;

defining specific parameters for the test;

programming necessary calculations;

assigning importance to an abnormal result; and

assigning the verification to a basic function and queue.

141. The method described in claim 140, further including the steps of:

providing at least one data entry screen for use in formulating verifications; and

providing selection lists for specifying pre-existing verifications for modification, for specifying the basic function and queue at which the verification is

to be performed, for selecting variables, parameters and values thereof, and for specifying the workflow consequences of an abnormal result.

142. The method described in claim 141, further including the step of:

providing a text box for use in creating a formula to be performed as the verification.

143. The method described in claim 141, further including the step of:

permitting the creation of the formula using words and mathematical operators.

144. A workflow management system for a trustee handling a plurality of securitizations comprising:

an electronic deal setup database which stores deal setup information, including information related to the structure of the securitizations;

a first data processing software module which receives asset level data transmitted by at least one asset manager and aggregates the asset level data;

a workflow management software module;

an first interface which receives the aggregated asset level data from the first data processing software module, and transmits the data electronically to the workflow management software module;

a computer display generated under control of the workflow management software module, which displays status information concerning a particular securitization, provides prompts to a user as to work which is to be done with respect thereto, and which includes at least one active element from which the user may initiate actions with respect to the work;

a second data processing software module which receives the aggregated asset level data, and responds to commands from the workflow management software module to perform computations related to payments due investors in the securitization;

a second interface; and

a third data processing software module which receives payment data produced by the second data processing software module through the second interface, and responds to commands from the workflow management software module to processes payments to the investors based on the payment data.

145. The system described in claim 144, further including

an electronic workflow status database which stores workflow status information for the securitizations.

146. The system described in claim 144, wherein the the computer display is based at least in part on recorded deal setup information in the electronic database.

147. The system described in claim 145, wherein the the computer display is based at least in part on workflow status information recorded in the workflow status database.

148. The system described in claim 145, wherein the workflow management software module is operative to update the workflow status database in response to actions initiated by users, and work completed.

149. The system described in claim 144, wherein the electronic deal setup database stores information related to the performance of the trustee's duties in connection the securitizations.

150. The system described in claim 144, further including a data handling device responsive to data and commands from the workflow management software module the data handling device being operative to electronically disseminate reports and other data compilations upon completion of the payment processing.

151. The system described in claim 144, wherein the aggregated asset level data is in database form, and wherein the first interface maps the database structure of the aggregated asset level data for compatibility with the second data processing software module.

152. The system described in claim 151, wherein the payment data produced by the second data processing software module is in database form, and wherein the second interface maps the database structure of the payment data for compatibility with the third data processing software module.

153. A workflow management system for handling a plurality of complex multiple step projects comprising:

an electronic workflow management database which stores project setup information, including organizational information concerning the projects, and the sequence of workflow required to execute the project;

a first data processing software module which receives raw data required to execute the project from at least one outside source, and processes the raw data;

a workflow management software module;

a first interface which receives the processed raw data from the first data processing software module, and transmits the data electronically to the workflow management software module;

a computer display generated by the workflow management software module, which displays workflow status information concerning the projects, provides prompts to a user as to work which is to be done with respect thereto, and which includes at least one active element from which the user may initiate actions with respect to the work;

a second data processing software module which receives the processed raw data, and responds to commands from the workflow management software module to perform computations using the processed raw data;

a second interface; and

a third data processing software module which receives data through the second interface, and responds to commands from the workflow management software module to processes the received data.

154. The system described in claim 153, further including a data handling device responsive to data and commands from the workflow management software module, the data handling device being operative to electronically disseminate reports and other data compilations.

155. The system described in claim 153, wherein the processed raw data is in database form, and wherein the first interface maps the database structure of the processed raw data for compatibility with the second data processing software module.

156. The system described in claim 155, wherein the data produced by the second data processing software module is in database form, and wherein the second interface maps the database structure of the data provided the second data processing software module for compatibility with the third data processing software module.

157. The system described in claim 155, wherein the the computer display is based at least in part on recorded setup information in the electronic database.

158. The system described in claim 153, wherein the workflow management software module is operative to update the workflow status database in response to actions initiated by users, and work completed.